Proper use of chemical fertilizer

†2483. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that use of chemical fertilizers by farmers is not being done properly;

(b) if so, whether it is affecting agricultural land in the country negatively;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is required to check this negative effect without delay;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(e) whether there is a scheme to educate farmers regarding proper usage of chemical fertilizers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (f) It is fact that unbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter and neglect of secondary and micro nutrients over the years have resulted in deterioration of soil health in many parts of the country, particularly in intensively cultivated areas of Indo gangetic plains.

The Government of India has launched a new scheme, namely, "National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility" during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. The scheme has provision for training of farmers, field demonstrations and organizing farmers' fair to promote balanced and soil test based application of fertilizers.

Import of rice

2484. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice is being imported;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to boost domestic rice production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) According to the latest data provided by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, only 9.8 tonnes of rice was imported during the year 2008-09. The reasons for import was requirement of specific varieties not usually grown domestically.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) with major component of NFSM- Rice to increase production of rice by additional 10 million tonnes through area expansion and productivity enhancement; restoring soil fertility and productivity by the end of the eleventh five year plan. Government has also raised the minimum support price of rice significantly in last five years.

Dairy development projects in Madhya Pradesh

†2485. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether project proposals of Raisen, Vidisha, Burhanpur and Khandwa districts under Intensive Dairy Development Project have been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard and by when these would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

Madhya Pradesh State Cooperation Dairy Federation Ltd. Bhopal had submitted two proposals under Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP). The first proposal, covering Burhanpur and Khandwa districts at a total outlay of Rs.471.69 lakh was submitted through the State Government in 2005-06 and the second proposal, covering Raisen and Vidisha districts at a total outlay of Rs.582.27 lakh was directly submitted in 2006-07.

Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India had examined these proposals and observed that five projects covering 14 districts were already under implementation in Madhya Pradesh and are still on-going. The implementing agency was informed by this department *vide* letters dated 28/07/2006 and 02/08/2006 that time bound action plan to complete the old projects sanctioned earlier along with the project completion reports need to be submitted to this department before any new proposal is considered. No response has so far been received form the State Government/implementing agency. Details of the ongoing projects are given in Statement.

Statement

Ongoing projects under Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP) in Madhya Pradesh

(Rs in lakh)

Project Name	Year of approval	Districts covered	Approved outlay	Fund released by GOI	Present status
1	2	3	4	5	6
M.P-I&II	1993-94	Guna, Narsinghpur, Khargoan & Chattarpur.	494.06	494.06	Project completion report has not been received.